17280.84 crores whereas loans issued* by them druing the year 1996-97 amounted to Rs. 3781.40 crores.

(b) The details of number of customers benefited as represented by number of deposit accounts and borrowal accounts of all the 196 RRBs as on 31st March, 1997 are given below:—

(Number in lacs)

Total deposit accounts*	392.02
Total borrowal accounts*	116.42
Total customers benefited	508.44

(c) The details of loans issued* by RRBs during the last three years is as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

1994-95	2316.45
1995-96	3267.79
1996-97	3781.40

Further, the position of amounts recovered* by RRBs is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year July-June	Amount recovered	Percentage of recovery to demand
1993-94	1460.85	46.2
1994-95	1870.36	50.9
1995-96	2438.99	55.2

*Data Provisional

Negotiation for Appointment of Pre-shipment Assessment Agency

714. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are negotiating with Societe Generale De Surveillance. S.A., Geneva for appointing it as the pre-shipment assessment agency for imports into India; and

(b) if so, the reasons for doing so and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Several complaints have been received from time to time about undervaluation and misclassification of imported goods leading to loss of revenue as also undue delays in cargo clearance at the ports and airports. With a view to overcoming these problems, Government have been con-sideriang several measures. Recently, the Directorate of Valuation has been set up to disseminate information on international prices and also monitor valuation practices in the Customs formations. One of the suggestions that came up for consideration in this regard was the use of pre-shipment inspection for ensuring correct classification and valuation of imported goods. It is in this context four pre-shipment companies made presentations on the role of pre-shipment inspection. No. decision has been taken in the matter.

Economic Growth Rate

715. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the country's economic growth rate for the present;

(b) the State having the highest economic growth in the country;

(c) the economic growth rate of each State; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the present growth rate of the country has slowed down again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) As per the revised estimates released by SCO in July 1997, the growth rate of GDP during 1996-97 was 6.8%.

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) और (ख) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आर. बी. आई.) ने सूचित किया है कि मार्च 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, और 1996 के अंत की स्थिति (अद्यतन उपलब्ध) के अनुसार सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों द्वारा बड़े और मझौले उद्योगों और लघु उद्योगों को दिए गए बकाया अग्रिम निम्नानुसार थे:

रु./करोड़)

वर्ष	बड़े एवं मझौले		लघु उद्योग	
	अग्रिम	अतिदेय**	अग्रिम	अतिदेय
मार्च, 1992	38480	5457.70	17566.86	3946.32
		(14.18)		
मार्च, 1993	49379.19	7040.06	19242.88	4647.38
		(14.26)		(14.15)
मार्च, 1994	49649.79	7542.87	20924.42	5033.39
		(15.19)		(24.06)
मार्च, 1995	57626.40	7178.94	25056.92	5162.46
		(12.46)		(20.60)
मार्च, 1996	73418.42	9183.26	29396.86	5947.56
		(12.51)		(20.23)

** कोष्ठक में दिए गये आंकड़े अग्रिमों के अतिदेय के प्रतिशत को दर्शाते हैं।

सरकार ने कहा और वित्तीय संस्थाओं की देयराशियों की वसूली को तेज करने के लिए ऋण वसूली अधिकरण गठित किए हैं। सरकार और आरबीआई भी बैंकों के, ऋण मूल्यांकन तंत्र को सुदृढ़ करने और अग्रिमों की निकट निगरानी और नियंत्रण की आवश्यकता पर बल देते रहे हैं। राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों के मुख्यालय में महाप्रबंधक के प्रभार के अंतर्गत वसूली कक्ष गठित किए गए हैं। बैंकों के निदेशक मंडल कभी नियमित आधार पर वसूली की स्थिति की समीक्षा करते हैं।

(ग) लघु मझौले और बड़ी औद्योगिक इकाइयों द्वारा भुगतान किए जाने वाले सीमा शुल्क, उत्पादन शुल्क, चुंगी तथा अन्य कर के बारे में क्षेत्र-वार और वर्ष-वार एकत्र की जाने वाली सूचना में लगने वाले समय और श्रम प्राप्त परिणामों के अनुरूप नहीं होंगे।

Credit Requirements of SSI Sector

717. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the public sector banks to give preference to Village Industries, tiny industries and other small scale units while meeting the credit requirements of the SSI sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the banks are following these directions in the right earnest in Gujarat;

(d) if so, whether Government have assessed the performance of each public sector bank in the State in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise; and

(f) steps Government propose to take in respect of those banks which are not following directives in SSI sector of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the recommendations of the P.R. Nayak Committtee, the Reserve